

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /154 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK/MW

APPROVED BY P - AMBASSADOR PORTER

S/S - MR. GAMMON

NEA - LBLAINGEN

NEA/PA :PDC NSTABLE

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R 272257Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BD, IN, PK

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH INITIATIVE TO RENEW TALKS

1. BANGLADESH ADDITIONAL FORSEC FAKHRUDDIN AHMED HAS ASKED
SECGEN WALDHEIM TO SOUND OUT PAKISTANI AND INDIAN UN REPRESENTATIVES ON BDG PROPOSAL TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON
DISPOSITION OF 195 PAK POWS. IN MEETING WITH UNDER
SECRETARY PORTER NOVEMBER 26, AHMED SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE
THE GOP HAD RAISED ISSUE OF 195 POWS IN UNGA WHEN HANDLING
OF THIS MATTER SPELLED OUT IN DELHI AGREEMENT. HE HAD BEEN
AUTHORIZED BY MUJIB TO CONVEY TO WALDHEIM ORAL MESSAGE
THAT BDG PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY PRO-
VISION IN DELHI AGREEMENT FOR THREE-PARTY TALKS ON THE
BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY. BDG, HE SAID, IS READY TO
BEGIN TALKING BEFORE THE PRESENT REPATRIATION OPERATION IS
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COMPLETED.

2. AHMED ARGUED THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR FURTHER MOVES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS. WITH REPATRIATIONS IN PROGRESS, PUBLIC OPINION WILL BACK ADDITIONAL EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD NORMALIZATION. MUJIB CONCERNED, HE SAID, THAT ONCE REPATRIATIONS ARE COMPLETED PUBLIC OPINION WILL HARDEN AGAIN AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT. BDG DID NOT WANT TO BE SEEN AS ADOPTING A RIGID POSTURE AND WAS READY TO DISCUSS "ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING" WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS. AHMED EMPHASIZED THAT BDG APPROACH TO REMAINING PROBLEMS WAS FLEXIBLE.

3. IN LATER DISCUSSION WITH ACTING DEP. ASST. SECY LAINGEN, HOWEVER, AHMED TURNED BACK ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE BDG MIGHT CONSIDER A FORMULA WHICH WOULD INTERPRET "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" AS PERMITTING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP BEFORE DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION ACCORDED. HE SPECIFICALLY REJECTED INTERMEDIARIES, AS WELL AS AN IDEA FOR LOWER LEVEL, PRIVATE TALKS WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING WITH SIMULTANEOUS DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. THE ISSUES, HE MAINTAINED, ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE DISCUSSED AT A LOWER LEVEL.

4. AHMED RETURNED TO NEW YORK SAME DAY, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT SEC GEN MIGHT HAVE INITIAL GOP REACTION SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

5. ON RELATED BUSINESS, AHMED REPORTED HE HAD DELIVERED TO WALDHEIM LETTER FROM MUJIB COMPLAINING THAT GOP DRAGGING ITS FEET IN CLEARING NON-BENGALEES. AHMED INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE ON WAY TO BEING SOLVED. HE HAD TALKED WITH UNHCR SADRUDDIN KHAN EN ROUTE AND SADRUDDIN HAD BEEN OPTIMISTIC THAT PROBLEM, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS PRIMARILY ONE OF COORDINATION, WOULD BE WORKED OUT. SADRUDDIN HAD PREDICTED THAT MORE THAN HALF THE POTENTIAL REPATRIATEES WOULD BE MOVED BY THE MIDDLE OR END OF DECEMBER.

6. THE MUJIB LETTER ALSO CONVEYED A BDG REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN REHABILITATING 100,000 TO

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150,000 RETURNING BENGALEES. AHMED HANDED OVER A PLAN FOR THIS DRAWN UP BY BANGLADESH MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION. WALDHEIM HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO CIRCULATE BDG REQUEST TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. FYI: AMBASSADOR LACOSTE (UNROB) TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS LAST WEEK THAT BDG OUTLINE INCLUDES REQUEST THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PROVIDE ESTIMATED DOLS 40 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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